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Westland Heiicopiers bought by Gorerrt-ment

367. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Wiil tho Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government bough, dozens of Westland-30 helicopters wind! have been found dangerous and which, therefoie, have been rotting away;

(b) the cost of purchase and maintenance of these Copter;

(c) who was responsible for this dubious deal;

(d) the action taken agaiirt the persons and agencies concerned: and

(e) what decision Goven-.mert have taken in respect of these Copters?

THE MINISTER OF CIVII. AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Pawan Hans Limited entered into an agreement With M]s Westland Helicopters of UK, for purcnase of 21 Westiand helicopters at a cost of Pound 65 million. The entire cost of Pound 65 million was covered under an outright grant given by British Government under D.D.A. Grant The manufacturers also paid a onetime lumsum operation subsidy of Pound 10 million tor purchase of ais spare engines and accessories.

At a result of problems faced duriag operational performance, the entire fleet of Westland helicopters was finally grounded on 9-2-91 for reasons of operational safety and economic viabilily.

The total maintenance cost incurred to date is Ki. 34.9 crore*.

(d) A report of the Committee constit uted to examine various aspects of the! purchase deal is available in Parliament Library with S. No. 358-418 R. The Committee report does not call for dis ciplinary action against any official.

(e) Earlier, it had been decided *to*
dispose the entire fleet through global tenders but since no bids were received] by the prescribd date, it has now been decided to dispose these helicopters th rough negotiations with parties inter est in purchase of these helicopters and accessories.

Air India flight from New Delhi to Frank, furt

368. DR BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

fa) the total Air India flights from New Delhi to fiirt and back duiinj April, 1994;

the total number of passengers car-

ried by Air India stating the nereeanion caracitj utilsition: and

(c) what are the reasons ror uo ww fall in the passenger traffic on Air India on this route?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Daring April, 1994 Air India operated 51 flights on the India|Franlcfurt]India see-tor and carried 6522 passengers. The capacity utilisation during the month was 35 per cent against the target of average capacity utilisation of 63-2 per cent.

(c) The reasons for shortfall in capacity utilisation are :

(i) traffic is usually low during the . month of April;

(ii) competition by foreign Carriers.

Selling of Tickets at Discount by foretes Airlines

369. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Wrs the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aw that foreign airlines operating front I*-dia are selling tickets at discount raMs without the prior approval of the DGCA;

(b) if so, the number of such cates that came to the notice of GovernmefM during the past 6 months;

(c) whether Government propose contemplate any strict action in sard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the impact of such concession offer by foreign airlines on our airline*?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) In Tune, 1994, The Board of Airline Represea- fatives of India represented to DGCA that some foreign airlines operating from India particularly (he European carrier